

Guest Editorial



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It has been a while since Pacific Health Dialog (PHD) issues have come in on time. Therefore, it is quite rewarding to introduce the second issue of this volume. From the TNA's stand point, PHD has been most helpful and enlightening. We have supported PHD throughout its infancy and now childhood. We anticipated being with PHD forever in one form or another.

This issue is about health systems research mainly in Fiji and some other Pacific countries. The papers represent rapid research efforts using existing data sources. It is a combination of using "clean dirt and dirty dirt" data to produce information to guide health services management and delivery.

Shareen Ali and her colleagues in Fiji provide a full report of the recent health systems workshop and their experiences as an example of a strategy to generate health system information. This effort was assisted by World Health Organization (WHO), Fiji School of Medicine (FSMed), and hosted by the Ministry of Health, Fiji. Other consultants from various institutions attended and assisted this venture.

The other papers in this issue examined suicide in Tokelau (an analysis of a combination of routinely collected data and primary data collection). Another paper "Does the Granting of legal Privileges as an Indigenous People Help to Reduce Health Disparities? Evidence from New Zealand and Malaysia" compares health experiences of Maori and indigenous Malaysians. Other short communications touched on a Tongan's perception of a Pacifically appropriate midwifery service in New Zealand, and a review about Professor John Nash, a schizophrenic, a mathematical genius, and a Nobel prize winner! There is also a paper of a Pasifika research advisory group's experience in New Zealand.

In the 'Abstract Section' are three sets of abstracts from 3 different conferences. The first is from Talanoa Oceania 2008 Conference, the second is from a follow up Talanoa Oceania Conference in 2009. Both these sets of abstracts addresses health, spirituality, theology, culture in Diaspora. The Talanoa Oceania Conferences have been primarily organized by the Pacificans of the Theological Training institutions in Australia and New Zealand. The third set of abstracts is from the 2009 Pasifika Medical Association Conference in the Cook Islands. All these abstracts indicate the diversity and complexities of health development issues in the Pacific. At the end in, 'PHD Matters', are a few corrections and apologies for a few inadvertent editorial oversights. For such is the wisdom of a young coconut tree afloat!

This PHD issue was jointly funded by the Ministry of Health Fiji; Health Research Council of the Pacific (HRCP), Cook Islands; and assisted by Massey University through the Directorate of Pasifika@Massey, Albany Campus, Auckland, New Zealand. As you should know by now, the production and management of

Pacific Health Dialog is now from the Directorate of Pasifika@Massey. This issue also carries salutations to friends of Pacific Health Dialog namely: Dr Jim Samisoni and Dr. Terence Roger. God speed Gentlemen!

A significant feature of this issue is the introduction of a new logo for Pacific Health Dialog on the cover. This new logo signifies the importance of the Pacific Ocean in connecting the Pacific islands and the spiritual guidance that monitors progress of the journey across the vastness that is the Pacific, Oceania, or Moananui. The germinating coconut generating light and enthusiasm is Pacific Health Dialog as it maturely addresses the Pacific development issues that are being submerged in the eddy currents of the global rush to dominate.

It's with some trepidations that we stand spellbound by the future and the potential contributions of Pacific Health Dialog (PHD). At this time, there is animated discussion between interested parties including: the Fiji School of Medicine, Suva, Fiji; the Pacific Island Health Officers' Association (PIHOA); Pasifika Medical Association of New Zealand (PMA); Health Research Council of the Pacific (HRCP); and all the other institutions and organizations who have supported PHD and been the friends of PHD over the last 15 years. Many of these organizations have had their logos grace the title page of PHD. There is a move to formalize the ownership of PHD by all interested parties.

We at the TNA wish Pacific Health Dialog and all its supporters the very best and offer support for timely production. We hope that PHD will continue to benefit from the goodwill of the "laborers of love" and continue to contribute to Pacific development where it matters but there is insufficient support.

Malo 'aupito!



'Eseta Finau

***"The weak can never forgive.
Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."***

Mahatma Gandhi